

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6845
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
MEMBASSY LONDON 2662
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: LIBYA IN CAIRO PRESS

REF:CAIRO 12027

1. TRIAL OF HIJACKERS TREATED SENSATIONALLY IN AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA SEPTEMBER 8. REPORTS INDICATE THAT DEFENDANTS PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO ALL CHARGES, WHICH INCLUDE THAT OF BEING IN PAY OF QADHAFI. MILITARY PROSECUTOR TOSSED NAME OF LIBYA ABOUT FREELY AND DESCRIBED THE CASE AS NO MERE HIJACKING, BUT "EXTENSION OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S PLAN OF SABOTAGE". WITNESSES' STATEMENT THAT LEADER OF HIJACKERS, ALI OSMAN, CALLED FOR SLAUGHTER OF US PASSENGERS GOT ITS OWN HEADLINE.

2. LIBYA ALSO CRITICIZED FOR ITS UNPRODUCTIVE PARTICIPATION
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IN AL COUNCIL SESSION SEPTEMBER 4. LIBYAN DELEGATION
"OBSERVED COMPLETE SILENCE" ON KUWAITI PROPOSAL FOR
SUMMIT AND ANNOUNCED ITS APPROVAL ONLY AFTER ALL OTHER
STATES HAD AGREED.

3. ALL PAPERS COVERED REPORTS OF FIRST MEETING OF
EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE JOINT DEFENSE COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 7.
FONMINS AND DEFMINs OF BOTH COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED.
FURTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9.
REPORTS WERE SHORT ON SUBSTANCE BUT STRESSED "COMPLETE
HARMONY" OF VIEWS. IN KEEPING WITH PUBLIC POLICY TO DATE,
NO HING OF LIBYA CREPT INTO PRESS COVERAGE OF JOINT
DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT.

4. AKHBAR UNLEASHED BIG GUN AHMAD ZAYN FOR MORE CHOICE
WORDS ON QADHAFI AND SOVIETS. ZAYN SUGGESTED THAT OBSTENSIBLY
MODERATE PERFORMANCE BY QADHAFI SEPTEMBER 1 BASED PURELY ON
FEAR OF LIBYAN PEOPLE AND DISCOVERY THAT HE IS HATED BY
ARAB STATES AND WHOLE WORLD. CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS,
INCITED BY SOVIETS, NOW BEGINNING TO DAWN ON HIM AS WELL.
EVIDENCE WAS QADHAFI'S "EXTREME NERVOUSNESS " DURING SEPTEMBER 1
SPEECH, DURING WHICH HE VIOLENTLY STRUCK LECTERN WITHOUT REASON.
" HE WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND OFTEN DUMBFOUNDED". SOVIETS
USING QADHAFI TO "BREAK UP ARAB SOLIDARITY". LIBYA HAS
BECOME SOVIET PROTECTORATE, AND SOVIET BASES MUSHROOMING
IN TOBRUK AND ELSEWHERE IN LIBYA. IT "MATTER OF FACT" THAT
MOSCOW SUBJECTING QADHAFI TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY.
MATTHEWS

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